8-16-94

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Harold:

As you anticipated, the good doctor returned my tape on the day before your letter arrived.

As you've no doubt guessed by now, I'm not trying to write a brief for the views of any particular author. But enough questions remain in the wake of every writer's views to occupy legions of researchers and students.

Your question regarding the validity of any theory that the Z film was altered is a good, tough, honest question that deserves careful analysis. I think that, inadvertently, your question may carry a concealed presupposition. You refer to "all the copies" and you ask how all of them could have been retrieved and altered. But we don't know with anything like certainty what was the chain of possession regarding these copies. Certain it seems to be that the original and each of the copies were transferred almost immediately into the hands either of the federal government or of Life magazine. We also know that in the immediate aftermath of the assassination Clare Luce was involved deliberately and with knowledge aforethought in the dissemination of false information designed to point the finger of guilt at Fidel Castro. This was also the objective of certain members [either agents or assets] of the CIA. The lies of Clare Luce could surely be metaphorical of more concrete alterations.

I recognize that, in truth, I am answering a question with a question, but I recognize also that any of us can pursue too relentlessly what we perceive as logic when in fact live logic can only proceed from flawless premises. I don't believe that the matter of the chain of possession of any of those earliest copies of the Z film can be taken for granted. Certain it is that once various items of evidence came into possession of the FBI they either metamorphosed into evidence condemnatory of Oswald, or they disappeared.

I am troubled by your belief that various doctor's descriptions of Kennedy's wounds, at Parkland, are a "bunch of crap". There is no way to get around the fact that these various reports, rendered with exacting language [and most agreeing] were made out on the day of the assassination, before the doctors could have had any idea that the matter of their veracity would ever be pawned into questions affecting the very writing of history, and well before they could ever have dreamed that their honestly unanimous rejection of governmental theory [single bullet] would be characterized instead as unanimous acceptance. Their is blame enough to go around among them in regard to their fearful waffling and backtracking. But that process that inspired so much fear among them began at a later date. On the day Kennedy died, they were under no such pressure.

Not to be flippant, but if the doctors were conspiratorally lying on 11-22-63, it must have been on behalf of Oswald. We must ask ourselves why, if they were truthfully stating on 11-22-63 what we all believe, i.e., that the President was shot from the front, that they would choose to insert an agreed upon lie about one of the wounds. I am especially taken by the exacting medical language regarding a blasted cerebellum, the which as we all know by now is significantly different in appearance from other brain tissue.

I think it extremely unlikely that the Parkland doctors would have made any effort at resuscitation had the President's head wounds been as described by Humes, and indeed the pre-autopsy photos of Kennedy taken at Bethesda agree not with the Humes description but with the Parkland description. If photo fakery was here involved, as Groden insists, then one must ask what end was served by the fakery. Finally, since we know that the Warren Comm. found it necessary to lie and distort regarding what the Parkland doctors actually stated, how can we accept that first the Parkland doctors lied [before there was a W.C.] and then the W.C. lied about the lies? Where is the handle? On such a merry-go-round who would be leading what coverup and who would be following?

In light of the aforementioned photos there are also many questions for Lifton to answer, and it may be possible that he can, although he has not yet answered them.

You will have noticed that this letter is far different in appearance from the previous. I had a manual typewriter that performed like yours. I recommend that you try the nearest discount store and pick up a Brother AX-250. I paid just $73.00 for it, less 10% for my old fogey discount. It's almost infinitely easier to use and it has a very nice correction device that, unfortunately can be used only if one notices ones' own error. It also has a word-out and a line-out feature.

If Lifton ever comes through with the two tapes I sent off for, I propose a deal. One tape for a copy, hopefully autographed. of your forthcoming book "Never Again".

Sincerely,

Russell

Russell Harrell